

here and at home know that we mean business, and so that we may all realize that we must join hands and look into the unknown abyss that is our future, and conquer it with the fearless determination that is so quintessentially American.

With hope and faith, we move forward together. With knowledge and determination, we strive, to make a better tomorrow. May God Bless each and every one of you, and may God Bless the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING JACOB CURTIN
JOHNSON ON ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, Jacob Curtis Johnson of Scout Troop 100 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the Rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

Jacob Johnson has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic Jacob has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend Daniel Moon for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Jacob will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Jacob's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jacob Curtis Johnson on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Captain Richard "BJ" Bjorklund served in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1975. After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Mr. Bjorklund headed to pilot training at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas. Later, he was assigned to the 668th Bomb Squadron, at Griffiss Air Force Base in New York and was shortly deployed to Anderson Air Force Base in Guam. He served two tours of duty at Anderson, and flew 75 Arc Light combat missions over Southeast Asia as a B-52 pilot. For his distinguished service, he received the Vietnam Service Medal and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters.

Since his honorable discharge in 1975, Mr. Bjorklund has worked as an investment advisor in Dallas, Texas, and has tirelessly devoted his time and efforts in service to our community. Back in 1985, he helped Congressman Dick Army establish his Service Academy Selection Board. Mr. Bjorklund served as chairman of that board for the next 18 years until Congressman Army retired as the House Majority Leader. Also involved in local politics, Mr. Bjorklund has been a delegate to the Texas GOP State Convention in both 2010 and 2012 and currently serves in an appointed position on the Collin County Health Care Advisory Board. He is also an active member in his church, Christ Church in Plano, Texas, and has served as chairman of the Building Fund Campaign as well as chairman of the Stewardship Campaign. On Memorial Day 2012, he hiked 35 miles with the Carry the Load Campaign in memory of veterans that have lost their lives for our great Nation. What a fitting reminder that all gave some, but some gave all.

Captain Richard "BJ" Bjorklund, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

WHAT GIFT CAN I BRING? IN
HONOR OF OUR ARMED FORCES
AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS
CHRISTMAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's Armed Forces, and their Families during this Christmas and Holiday Season. The ones who are separated by death, war, and plagued with life altering health conditions throughout America, are paying the price of freedom for us all. The ones who give us the greatest gifts, "That Last Full Measure". Say a prayer for them, and keep them in your hearts this Christmas and Holiday Season. Say a prayer for peace, I ask that this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

WHAT GIFT CAN I BRING?

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

"What gift can I bring?" . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
"That's fit for a King" . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
What gift can I give?
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
All in this life I live . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
While,
into the valley of death I walked!
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
Out into that darkness standing tall!
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
My arms and legs I gave . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
For you I limp this day!
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
And in my arms my love ones I shall never
hold this way . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
All so we may live in peace this day!
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
And . . . my eyes I gave . . .
so all in darkness I must stay . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
As another beautiful sunset I shall never so
see portrayed . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
And my ears I gave,
so I can never hear the words "I love you"
say . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
And all those scars upon my face . . .
In the mirror I must look at each day . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
All for the beauty of peace on earth this day
. . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
As all in such nightmares I awake . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
All in the name of Freedom I paid . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
What greater gift can I give?
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
That's fit for a King . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
As I did . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
As all in such pain and worry my family now
lives . . .
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
And all of those Doctors and Nurses,
Corpsmen and Medics who witness such
death and carnage each day!
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
Who so many lives so save!
Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
Creating such demons inside they must now
so face!